

## **Greene County Economic Development Committee, Inc. November 28, 2006 Meeting minutes**

### **Updates:**

1. Almshouse Progress: received a donation from the Greenfield High School Home Economics class, headed by Luann Hubbard, Of \$179.00
2. Business Survey: a January practice will be scheduled. Surveys may be done in teams if timing and scheduling allows. Survey team members: Joe Clark, Ron Coultas, Sandra Schmidt, Kelly Smith, Willie Rees. (Chad & Stacy Shultz)????

### **New Business:**

1. Nominations of officers for 2007 were collected. Voting will take place at our next meeting on Tuesday January 9th.
2. Fund raising ideas: Masquerade Party, Win a Car Raffle, Gulf Tournament, Winery Tour, Bowling Tournament, White Elephant Auction.
3. Corridor 67 report: 6-8 people from Greene County were in attendance; District 8 (Greene County) is on track to begin surveying and the preliminary studies in February 2007. Predictions for a finish date of 2012. Sylvia Kallal noted that the monies for this project will likely be given piece meal.
4. By Laws, Not for Profit status: A sub-committee of two (Sylvia Kallal & Sandra Schmidt) has been formed to review and revise the current By-Laws and have an updated version by the end of February for the committee to review.

**Discussion, New Focus:** Ron Coultas shared with the group his opinion of where we should go from here. Economic Development is all about growth and change. As a group we need to create a goal and make a plan to reach that goal. Investors will not be generous with donations to a group that does not have goals or plans. The steps it takes to achieve goals of this magnitude will require experience and professional help. Ron believes that the JREDC could provide the help and expertise needed to reach our goals. Joining this group is costly but with the experience they have, investors are more likely to invest and contribute to meet the expenses. Ron shared that he also realizes that our group could be a two-part organization; one part being tourist/county preservation and the second part being a business/ industry / housing development group.

**The Reply:** Sandra Schmidt spoke for the group as president. She stated the obvious. We do not have our updated By-Laws, We do not have a firm set of goals. Our organization is still being created and we are not yet focused on business needs because the business survey has not been done. As Ron stated we need a business plan before going to investors. We do not have one yet. Also there are other resources that can be explored before we go regional. In the future joining JREDC might be beneficial and optimize and expand our efforts, but at this time we are just not ready.

**Visioning Session:** Jason Walker talked with us about taking ownership of our goals and strategies. We need to prioritize them into short and long terms achievements and add to them as we go along. Goal and Strategies are on next page.

**Next meeting,** Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 7:00 pm Rockbridge Twp. Hall, Greenfield. Treats will be served by Ron Coultas

Greene County Economic Development Committee, Inc.

Goal: Greene County is known as an area able to promote growth, but maintain its small town atmosphere (managed growth).

Strategies:

1. Investigate the possibility of value-added agricultural projects, i.e. aquaculture, organic farming, specialty crops, etc.
2. Conduct a business retention and expansion survey and plan to promote entrepreneurship.
3. Create a county-wide economic development group.
4. Promote and coordinate tourism, accenting what is unique to Greene County.

This was the goal and strategies of the original mapping group (economic development segment) conducted in 2005. Since we are in the process of formalizing our organization it is time we review this goal and strategies. Your homework for the January 9, meeting is to review the above and make suggestions re: the goal and strategies and prioritize those suggestions. For example: #2 would be a short term strategy since we are already in the process of preparing to conduct the survey. #3, might be expanded to include screening and recruitment to add to our already formed group. This is your committee so feel free to add to the above or suggest changes to the goal. Your input is critical to the continuation and growth of this organization.

If you have any questions, please call or email.

Sandra